

Lead Scientist's Report

Summary: This report covers three items:

Collaborative Science Activities: (1) Progress on Data Summit Report

Science Communication: (2) Update on El Niño (3) "By the Numbers", a summary of current numbers relevant to Delta water and environmental management.

Collaborative Science Activities

Data Summit Report

Following the Data Summit held on June 5th a writing team was assembled to prepare a report that will lay out a plan for transforming how we manage environmental data in California. The writing team consists of scientists, agency staff, non-governmental organization representatives, and private sector experts with a wide range of data management expertise. The writers have submitted the first drafts of their assigned report sections through an innovative online platform developed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

The draft report will be reviewed by a broad spectrum of data generators, data users, and experts in networking and computing. The report will also undergo public review and revisions over the next two months, with the final report scheduled for release the second week of December.

Science Communication

Update on El Niño

El Niño neutral conditions continue. Sea surface temperatures in the eastern half of the equatorial Pacific Ocean have decreased and the chance of an El Niño this coming Fall and Winter has decreased to about 60 to 65%. A strong El Niño is not favored in any of the model results and slightly more models call for a weak event rather than a moderate event. A recent report by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows the depth of the current drought and that it is unlikely that anything but a very strong (and rare) El Niño will fully replenish California's water supplies this coming winter (Attachment 1 and available online here:

http://meteora.ucsd.edu/cnap/pdf/CNAP_CAdrought_aug2014.pdf).

By the Numbers

Delta Science Program staff will give a summary of current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary (Attachment 2) will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: NOAA Report – “The California Drought of 2014: Record Hot, Record Dry”
Attachment 2: By the Numbers Summary

Contact

Dr. Peter Goodwin
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463